

Assignment: As you work on this paper, keep in mind that the guiding principle behind this assignment is that knowledge is made through writing (including all the "parts" of writing such as prewriting, research, and what have you). In other words, you'll learn about an issue in English studies by writing about it and putting it in a particular context (your own needs or interests, for example).

Your paper will be an argument and will address the teaching of writing and/or grammar in high school. You'll consider a number of issues within that broad subject area and then narrow down your topic to something more focused and specific. Here are some examples you might consider and modify:

- Journal writing
- Writing assessment
- Assignment design
- Classical rhetoric in writing classes
- Grammar instruction as part of writing instruction
- Sociolinguistics instruction in writing classes
- Writing classes
- Ownership of writing
- Writing across the curriculum
- Use of plagiarism detection software

Your paper must connect your ideas to the TEKS or STAAR objectives for a particular grade (8-12). In other words, as you argue for a particular approach, you must also demonstrate what objectives your approach will address. You'll find the links to the TEKS and STAAR materials in the course syllabus.

Please remember to focus your paper by posing your subject in the form of a claim as you organize your thoughts. For example: *Students can improve their writing by learning to apply some characteristics of classical rhetoric.*

More issues will present themselves as we proceed through the semester.

Format: Remember, too, that your paper should be 6-8 pages (typed, double-spaced), including your list of works cited. Follow [MLA](#) or [APA](#) format throughout. There is no minimum or maximum number of external sources to use; you're expected to decide how many and what kind of sources will make you appear credible on that particular topic. I suspect, though, that all of you will utilize at least some fairly recent sources.

Criteria: Focused and relevant topic, clear prose, adequate research, conformity to MLA or APA guidelines and Standard American English. If all or most of these seem vague or generic, you now understand the importance of the proposal.

Deadlines: Your proposal--a one-paragraph description of your paper and a tentative bibliography in MLA or APA style--is due **Thursday, November 3**. I will comment on those and return them shortly thereafter. Your paper is due **Thursday, December 1**.